

REMARKS

Claims 18, 20-34, 39-44, 46-51 and 56-65, all the claims pending in the application, are subject to an election of species requirement.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner holds that the present application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Examiner asserts that these species lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

The species of figures 1-19; and

The species of figures 20-39.

The Examiner holds that claims 18, 20-34 and 39-44 correspond to the species of figures 1-19 and that claims 46-51 and 56-65 correspond to the species of figures 20-39. The Examiner holds that no claims are generic.

The Examiner advises that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

Applicants elect species 1, to which claims 18, 20-34 and 39-44 correspond, for examination.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected species and claims at a later time.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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